

Special Branch, S.M.P.

Commissioner of Police.  
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20:1: 1933.

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Information.

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*W. Givens*  
Officer i/c Sp. Br.

A. Malayan Communist Party

Aliens Registration Bill - Riots and Demonstrations:-

Apart from the temporary quotas imposed to meet the economic crisis, immigration of Chinese coolie labour into Malaya has been unrestricted. On 1st January, 1933, however, the Aliens Admission Bill comes into force, whereby with certain exceptions every alien entering the country is subject to examination.

The Local Communist Party naturally regards this as an attempt to repress the worker and considers it as an attempt by the Imperialists to circumvent their freedom of movement. Several attempts have been made to demonstrate publicly against the Bill, and a continuous stream of pamphlets on the same subject is also being issued.

On 28th November, 1932, 4th December, 1932, and 11th December, 1932, demonstrations were arranged to take place in Singapore. The presence of uniformed police in threatened areas prevented trouble from starting on the first two occasions. On the third occasion, however, the demonstration materialised. 59 arrests for Unlawful Assembly were made, including four women who were members of the Women's Association. The demonstration formed up in procession, by a man carrying a flag inscribed in English and Chinese "Oppose the Aliens Bill and uphold the Anniversary of the Canton Uprising"; he was backed by a compact body of fifty to sixty men carrying broomsticks at the slope; the riot squads of uniformed police arrived shortly after the procession had got under way and broke up the assembly without difficulty. A large proportion of those arrested were senior students of the Chinese High School, Bukit Timah Road. Some young boys were amongst those arrested.

December 11th was also the Anniversary of the Canton Uprising.

On 12th December, 1932, a serious riot occurred in Kulai, a small village in Johore. Some three hundred Chinese assembled outside a coffee shop; a bannerman then appeared; pamphlets were distributed; crackers were fired as a signal; and the whole assembly then attacked two Police Constables who were on duty in the village, and severely assaulted them. One managed to reach the Police Station and the other the house of the Inspector in charge of the district. The mob advanced to the Inspector's house and he was forced to fire his revolver, killing two of the leaders. The demonstrators then dispersed and a number of arrests were made. The cause of the riot was identical with that in Singapore, the Anniversary of the Canton Uprising and the Opposition to the Aliens Bill. Some of the mob were armed with cudgels and iron bars.

In Singapore crackers were found on the scene after the dispersal of the assembly and were evidently intended to be used, as at Kulai, to signal that the moment for the demonstration to become a riot had arrived.

Apart from these disturbances in Johore and Singapore there was no activity elsewhere in Malaya beyond the distribution of pamphlets and the usual slogan writing. The most serious aspect of the affair in Singapore was the presence of such a large body of students. It is known that on 4th December, 1932 the Students Federation were ready to turn out in force, but the presence of uniformed police, as mentioned above, frightened them into inactivity.